

## **New American Success Act**

### ***Section-by-Section***

#### ***Section 1. Short Title***

The Act may be cited as the “New American Success Act of 2014”

#### ***Section 2. Table of Contents***

#### ***Section 3 - Findings and Declaration of Policy***

This section outlines findings that demonstrate the need for a comprehensive federal immigrant integration strategy. It provides demographic data regarding immigrants’ educational attainment, English proficiency, and labor market success; notes past mechanisms for assimilating new arrivals; and discusses current challenges the federal government faces due to the lack of coordinated integration policies and programs, and the expected benefits of improving such coordination .

The Declaration of Policy states the intent of this legislation to promote the civic, economic and linguistic integration of immigrants and their young children into the United States through a variety of policies. These include establishment of comprehensive national standards and metrics for integrating immigrants, assessment and coordination of Federal policies, regulations, and programs related to immigrant integration; consultation with state and local governments to improve Federal policies and programs; and evaluation of the success of these efforts.

### **Title 1 – Citizenship and New Americans**

#### ***Section 101 – National Office of New Americans***

The National Office of New Americans (Office) will be established in the Executive Office of the President. The President will appoint a Director and Associate Directors if necessary. The Office will provide advice, counsel, and coordination on a multi-agency strategy to address the opportunities and challenges of immigrant integration. Moreover, the Office will establish goals for immigrant integration and will evaluate the scale, quality, and effectiveness of the Federal Government’s efforts concerning said goals. The Office will lead a biannual consultation process with state and local government officials to identify integration challenges and opportunities and will identify the anticipated effects of new Federal immigration policies on existing integration efforts. A report on the findings and outcomes of these efforts will be submitted biannually to the President and appropriate congressional committees.

#### ***Section 102 – Task Force on New Americans***

The Director of the National Office of New Americans will convene a task force comprised of the Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Commerce, the Attorney General, and others; each member will ensure their agency’s timely and meaningful participation in activities related to the goals and initiatives set forth in the legislation.

The Task Force will provide coordinated Federal responses to achieve a successful immigrant integration strategy and will address issues affecting the lives of new immigrants and their local communities, including early childhood care and education; elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education; adult education and workforce training; health care; naturalization; and economic development.

The Director of the Task Force will be required to submit a report to Congress 18 months after it becomes operational and every two years thereafter. The report will include findings on the biannual consultation with State and local government officials on the challenges and opportunities they face with integrating immigrants, recommendations on pending legislation and policy proposals, and suggestions for reducing harmful effects of federal programs on new immigrant communities.

## **Title 2 – Grants**

### *Section 201 – Initial Entry, Adjustment, and Citizenship Assistance Grants*

The Director of USCIS, in consultation with the Director of the National Office of New Americans shall award Initial Entry, Adjustment, and Citizenship Assistance (IEACA) grants to eligible entities on a competitive basis.

IEACA grants will be awarded for the design and implementation of programs that provide immigrants with direct assistance in applying for permanent residence, naturalization, relief from removal and/or authorization to remain in the United States lawfully and permanently.

Priority in funding will be given to applicants located in states that have a foreign born population of 5% or more and have seen an increase in noncitizen population higher than the national average in the previous ten years, based on data compiled by the Office of Immigration Statistics or the Census Bureau. Priority will also be given to any of the ten states with the highest number of noncitizen residents.

### *Section 202 – Integration Success Grants*

The Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office may provide grants to eligible entities on a competitive basis. Such grants will be awarded for improving the economic, linguistic, and civic integration of immigrants and their children.

Entities eligible to receive such grants include states or units of local government working in partnership with not-for-profit or community-based organizations.

Priority in funding will be given to entities that use not less than ten percent of matching funds from non-Federal sources or collaborate with at least one public or private entity. Priority will also be given to states that have a foreign born population of 5% or more and have seen an increase in noncitizen population higher than the national average in the previous ten years, based on data compiled by the Office of Immigration Statistics or the Census Bureau. Furthermore, priority will be given to any of the ten states with the highest number of noncitizen residents.

### *Section 203 – Integration Success Fund*

Appropriations for the grant programs in Title 2, in addition to any amounts otherwise made available and any revenue sources explicitly mentioned in these titles, are authorized such sums as may be necessary as part of a dedicated “Integration Success Fund.”

The Director may solicit, accept or use any gifts or bequests for purposes of awarding the grants created in this Act.

## **Title 3 – English Language Learning**

### *Section 301 – Waiver of English Requirement for Senior New Americans*

This title amends Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act by waiving the English Language Learning requirements for certain individuals who are unable to comply with such requirements because of physical or mental disability; or are a certain age and have lived in the United States for a period of 5 years after being lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

## **Title 4 – Rulemaking**

### *Section 401 – Rulemaking Requirement*

This title requires that all necessary implementing regulations and guidelines be completed 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act in consultation with the Director of the National Office of New Americans.